

## **JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

Robert Oakeshott MP  
Federal Member for Lyne

Janelle Saffin MP  
Federal Member for Page

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### **BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT FOR WHITE RIBBON FOUNDATION**

BOTH sides of politics have united to form the Parliamentary Friends of White Ribbon Foundation launched by Rob Oakeshott MP and Janelle Saffin MP to recognise the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women.

"Gender-based violence is Australia's greatest policy failure which is why all side of politics have come together to create a bigger voice on this issue," said Mr Oakeshott.

"It is devastating to admit that one in three Australian women will experience physical or sexual violence in her lifetime and it is even more devastating to admit that men are one of the biggest contributing factors to this statistic; this is just not on.

"No parliamentarian stands for gender-based crime and we are now uniting to speak out about it," said Mr Oakeshott.

The Parliamentary Friends of White Ribbon Foundation will aim to raise the awareness of this issue by encouraging male parliamentarians to become White Ribbon Ambassadors, for all members to be actively outspoken on this issue and to work together to put a framework for action into place.

Janelle Saffin said women have long campaigned against domestic violence and progress has been made in community attitudes and the law, but violence against women continues.

"This is a human rights abuse that threatens the lives of women, and the fabric of family and community life.

"It is important that men take up this campaign and spread the message across the community. This is why I support White Ribbon Day, because it is about men speaking up and speaking out and challenging attitudes.

"In particular we need male sporting role models to promote respect to women, not just on White Ribbon Day, but every day. The message needs to get through to young people that violence against women is never acceptable," Ms Saffin said.

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